



**Date:** May 6, 2005  
**To:** Gerald R. Miller, City Manager  
**From:** Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** City Report For Week Ending May 6, 2005

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The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending May 6, 2005 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

**MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Police, Fire**

Family members, Police and Fire personnel, City officials and staff paid tribute to Police and Fire fallen heroes who, in the line of duty, made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives for the people of Long Beach at the 5th Annual Police and Fire Memorial Ceremony on Tuesday, May 3. Highlights of the event included the precision of the Color Guard, Ashley Perez's singing, Chris Milburn's bagpiping, bell ceremony, Taps and gun-salute.

**Parks, Recreation and Marine**

An expanded and restored Victory Park, Ocean Blvd., was rededicated on May 4. The Park was originally built to honor WWI veterans.

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau**

Commission on Youth and Children Co-Chairs Pierre Batton and Rebecca Turrentine, and Commissioners Lou Santos and Marc Rothenberg, Vice Chair - Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force, will be part of the *Enough is Enough* Telethon. The segment, titled *Where the Voices of Youth Matter*, focuses on the Commission's emphasis on monitoring the conditions of Long Beach youth and children in order to advise the Mayor and City Council on matters that affect the well being of youth and children.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS**

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau**

Burton W. Chace Park will have its long awaited opening ceremonies at 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, May 7**. The new water play feature will bring a fun element to the park, with streams of water being shot gently a few feet into the air in a rhythmic pattern by a foot-actuated pump.

**City Manager**

The *Enough is Enough* Telethon, **May 12 to 14**, will feature the latest strategies to combat youth and gang violence in Long Beach and a 90-minute interactive town hall meeting.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)**

### **City Manager**

#### *Enough is Enough* (continued)

The 41-hour *Enough is Enough* Telethon will feature Court TV personality and trial attorney Rikki Klieman, interviews with former gang members, information on tattoo removal, and a joint programming effort with KPCC's Talk of the City hosted by Kitty Felde. The Telethon will kick off at 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 12, and will be aired live on local Charter Communications Channels 3, 8, 15, 17, 24 and 65.

**Note:** Due to a joint City Council and Redevelopment Agency Board meeting on Thursday, May 12, Channel 8 will join the *Enough is Enough* Telethon in progress at the conclusion of the meeting.

### **Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau**

A **May 16 Budgeting 101** Workshop will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about the City's budget, budgeting process, and the Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan directly from representatives of the Department of Financial Management. The workshop will be conducted in English with Spanish and Khmer translation. For more information, please contact JoAnn Rojas at 570.1010 or [JoAnn\\_Rojas@longbeach.gov](mailto:JoAnn_Rojas@longbeach.gov).

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Department of Health and Human Services**

Bioterrorism Committee staff attended the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters conference in Woodland Hills. Conference topics included developing tsunami plans and effective bioterrorism and disaster exercises, response to the Southeast Asia tsunami, and behavioral health impacts of disasters.

Staff attended Strategic National Stockpile training on April 26 conducted by the State Department of Health Services. The training covered issues related to the distribution and dispensing of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to residents after a biological attack. The training was held at the Miller Family Health Education Center and was attended by public health professionals representing Southern California Health Jurisdictions.

The Environmental Health Promotora (a community-based neighborhood home health worker program) Training Academy and Junior Health Inspector Program will begin on May 11 at the Miller Family Health Education Center. The program is designed to train residents and school aged children about environmental hazards that may trigger unhealthful effects.

### **Police**

Citywide, police officers responded to 780 priority one, 1,780 priority two and 11,652 priority three calls for service, for a total of 14,212 calls. Police officers made 706 arrests, issued 670 citations and conducted 248 field interviews.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)**

### **Police**

On April 30, the Police Department conducted a *Driving Under the Influence/Drivers License Checkpoint* at Anaheim Street and Freeman Avenue. During the six-hour operation, 2,873 vehicles passed through the checkpoint with 771 being screened. Four arrests were made, 28 vehicles were impounded because the driver was either unlicensed or driving on a suspended license, and 72 drivers were issued traffic citations. Checkpoints have proven to be a vital component in the fight against both impaired driving and unlicensed drivers.

### **Fire Department**

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,395 emergency calls for service: 107 calls for fires, of which 18 involved structures; and 688 emergency medical calls, of which 454 required paramedics.

## **NEIGHBORHOODS**

### **Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau**

On April 24, ten mothers and their 25 children celebrated the completion of the second class of the *Raising a Reader* Program. The program encourages parents to read to their children while teaching them how to use the library. Staff from the St. Mary's Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area organized the event in partnership with staff from the Long Beach Public Library Foundation.

The Neighborhood Leadership Program Class of 2005 has completed its second month of leadership development. The six-month training program is designed to enhance the skills of grassroots neighborhood leaders. Forty-five participants completed a weekend retreat providing class participants an opportunity to explore and develop their leadership. On May 7, the Neighborhood Leadership Program will host a Day of Discovery tour of Long Beach. The Class of 2005 will be guided on a tour that will highlight dozens of community projects organized and completed by Neighborhood Leadership Program alumni. For more information, please contact Marcos Lopez at [Marcos\\_Lopez@longbeach.gov](mailto:Marcos_Lopez@longbeach.gov). or at 570.1010.

### **Library Services**

On April 30, Library staff participated in the Long Beach Unified School District's Parent Summit, attended by over 700 parents. With a theme of *Treasure Your Library*, youth services librarians handed out pencils, pads, bags and Summer Reading Club materials; informed parents about library programs and services, and even had a treasure chest for children to dig for prizes. Donated books were given to those lucky visitors with a star on the back of their library bookmark.

### **Library Services**

May is *Get Caught Reading Month*. As a fun way to encourage the use of the library, all staff will be handing out *101 Reasons to Read* bookmarks to anyone they see reading.

### **NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)**

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau**

Demolition is complete and the contractor is getting ready to set forms to pour ADA street access ramps at Coolidge, DeForest and Los Cerritos Parks. The interior of the freestanding restroom at Bixby Knolls Park has been gutted and will be rebuilt to ADA standards. Other improvements being made at Bixby Knolls Park include rubber surfacing of portions of the playground and concrete flatwork to provide access to the picnic tables.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau**

Starting May 11, the Junior Golf Program and the Long Beach Chapter of the NAACP will be operating two golf clinics for students at Heartwell and El Dorado Golf Courses.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau**

During the week of May 9, over 70 adaptive recreation participants and volunteers will attend a residential camp at Camp Oakes in Big Bear, California. There will be arts and crafts, hiking, swimming, camp songs and an evening at the constellation observatory.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **Police**

The annual "Tip-a-Cop" Special Olympics Benefit was held April 28. The Long Beach Police Department, Los Angeles Area CHP and Long Beach FBI raised \$6,023. The proceeds will support the local Special Olympics athletes. Thanks to all the friends, family and co-workers who supported this great cause.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau**

On May 1, the *Mobile Recreation Program* participated in the annual Children's Day Celebration and Parade held at Recreation Park. Staff provided arts and crafts, sports equipment and games, and celebrated with several hundred children and youth who joined the festivities. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Park's Drill Team and Drum Squad performed.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Health and Human Services**

More than 550 visitors participated in the Drake, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cherry Parks' *Cover the Uninsured* health fairs during the week of May 2. The fair provided information on low and no cost insurance for youth, free health screenings and more. The events were held in cooperation with St. Mary's Medical Center, the American Cancer Society and the First, Sixth and Seventh Council offices.

**SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)**

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau**

During the week of April 30 through May 6, the Department, in collaboration with the Cinco de Mayo Committee, hosted a week of Cinco de Mayo Celebrations:

- On April 30, California Recreation Center hosted the second annual Ballet Folklorico Competition with over 50 participants in attendance. Numerous ballet groups (boys and girls) competed for trophies.
- On May 2, Cesar E. Chavez Park hosted "Mariachi Night" with over 85 participants in attendance. The event featured the musical talents of local Long Beach Mariachi Band, Mariachi El Dorado and Mariachi Los Campesino. Participants also enjoyed a performance by the Las Estrellas Ballet.
- On May 4, Silverado Park hosted a Mexican Band Concert during their senior lunch program with over 35 senior participants in attendance. The event featured a Mexican Costume Fashion Show and live music by Norteno.
- On May 5, Veterans Park hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cinco de Mayo Celebration Dinner, with over 150 community leaders, City officials, and staff in attendance. Invited guests enjoyed live entertainment from Mariachi America, performances by AguaLuna Ballet Company and traditional Mexican cuisine.

On April 30, more than 60 adaptive participants joined 500 athletes and volunteers at the 36th annual Long Beach Area Special Olympics Area Games. Athletes throughout Southern California competed in track and field, aquatics, gymnastics and basketball.

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Marine Bureau**

Last weekend, the Marine Bureau Manager represented the City at four yacht club openings: Seal Beach, Alamitos Bay, Little Ships Fleet, and Long Beach Yacht Clubs.

**OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE**

**Community Development, Property Services Bureau**

The Property Services Bureau, in a joint effort with the Airport Bureau, solicited Request for Qualifications for the development of 3.1 acres of the southwest corner of the Airport property known as Parcel X2. This development will be primarily for aircraft hangars and tie-downs in support of general aviation.

GRM: KP: arc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager  
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager  
Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager  
City Manager Department Heads  
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